

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring a broadcast signal, the method comprising:

receiving, by an end user device, a broadcast signal, the broadcast signal including at least three components, an identification signal and a timebase being a periodic incremental clock inserted in one of the three ~~data~~-components;

generating a local timebase corresponding to said received timebase;

monitoring the broadcast signal in order to detect the identification signal; and

pausing the local timebase, at unspecified time intervals, to accommodate at least interactive applications, if the identification signal is not detected; and

restarting the ~~output~~-local timebase when the identification signal is detected such that at least two of the three components are resynchronized with the interactive applications.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the broadcast signal comprises a video component, an audio component, and a data component.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the timebase is inserted into the data component of the broadcast signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the broadcast signal is a digital signal and the identification signal is present in the data component of the broadcast signal.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the broadcast signal is an analogue signal and the identification signal is present in the vertical blanking interval of the broadcast signal.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identification signal is present in the normal data structures describing the video component of the broadcast signal.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for monitoring a broadcast signal, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver for receiving the broadcast signal, the broadcast signal including at least three components, an identification signal and a timebase being a periodic incremental

clock, at least one of said three components forming interactive applications to be executed on said apparatus;

a signal detector for detecting the identification signal in the broadcast signal, ~~said signal detector generating a detection signal when said identification signal is not detected;~~
and

a timebase generator for receiving said timebase and for generating a local timebase corresponding to said received timebase, ~~said timebase generator also receiving the detection signal from being coupled to the signal detector for pausing the local timebase when the identification signal is not detected,~~ whereby in case of unexpected interruptions in the received timebase and the identification signal, the received timebase and the local timebase remain synchronized and at least two of the three components are resynchronized with the interactive applications.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the signal comprises a video component, an audio component, and a data component.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the received timebase is inserted into the data component of the broadcast signal.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the receiver and the signal detector are portions of an integrated circuit.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the apparatus is a digital television receiver.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pausing step occurs due to insertion of additional information in the broadcast signal.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the additional information is advertisements.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the additional information is unannounced weather updates.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the pausing of the local timebase occurs due to insertion of additional information in the broadcast signal.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the additional information is advertisements.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the additional information is unannounced weather updates.